

Biography of James Andrew McCulloch
--Gordon McCulloch

James A. McCulloch was born April 21, 1869 near St. Marys, Ontario, Canada. He lived with his parents in that community for the first twelve years of his life. During this time he spent five short terms in school.

After his twelfth birthday the McCulloch family moved to a farm near Sanborn, North Dakota. They remained there for three years and two terms of school were attended by him there. He could not go to school the last year because he had to take a man's place on the farm. It was required of him to drive oxen on crude machinery--a man's place then was a place of drudgery.

When he was fifteen, his father filed a claim that was located on the south bank of Lake Jessie. They moved to this place in lumber wagons drawn by oxen. The lumber for building purposes was hauled from Sanborn in the same method. It took the larger part of the summer to get moved and established in regular living quarters.

Being the eldest of the six children (and they were farming on a large scale), he was compelled to stay at home and tend the farm.

At the age of 24 he bought a farm three miles south of Lake Jessie. He broke up the land and established a home of his own. On November 25, 1903 he married Helen H. Rothert, a girl of that neighborhood.

In 1918 he had a sale of his personal property and travelled west with his family. The following year they came back and settled in Fargo, North Dakota. They remained there for five years. In the spring of 1923, he and his family returned to their farm near Jessie.

After he was settled on the farm, he put two crops in. In the fall 1924, he was injured while working with a tractor. His health began to fail soon after the accident. In the fore part of the summer of 1925, he was compelled to go to bed where he remained until his death, January 1, 1927.

James A. McCulloch

By O.D.Purinton, Clerk and Historian of Old Settlers Association.

James A. McCulloch, son of W.T. and Sarah Ann McCulloch, was born at St. Marys, Perth County Ontario Canada. on April 21, 1869.

In 1880 W.T. McCulloch , moved with his family to Barnes County D.T. He secured a preemption two miles west of Sanborn and lived there two years. He then moved to Griggs County, and settled at a homestead at Jessie Lake, where at that time they had only two or three neighbors within 12 miles. ~~He says,~~ James A. says, " At the time we settled at Lake Jessie we lived for several years in single board claim shacks, rough unplanned lumber at that. We did not know what a coal heater was. Many nights in cold weather we were obliged to wear caps to keep from freezing our ears. When the blizzards came considerable snow used to blow in, but we were healthy as bears. In my father's family there were 3 boys and 2 girls, I being the oldest."

James A. McCulloch was married Nov 25th 1903 to Miss Helen Rothert, and they with their two sons, Royal and Gordon, now live on their farm four and one-half miles SW of Jessie.

William Albert McCulloch

By O.D.Purinton, Clerk and Historian of Old Settlers Association.

William Albert McCulloch, son of W.T. and Sarah Ann McCulloch was born Aug.15th 1873 at St.Marys Ontario Canada. He came to Dakota with his parents in 1880, located first for two years at Sanborn, then they settled on a homestead in Tyrol township near Lake Jessie in 1882. There William worked at home until 1889 when he bought the south half of 35-147-59, and moved onto it in 1902. He says, " I moved from my old home at Jessie to my farm and spent three years as a bachelor improving and paying for it, using oxen as my work team until in 1904, I sold the oxen and got horses."

He was married on June 28th 1905 to Miss Mary Tuftland of Ottawa Post office, Griggs County. He has two children :

Leonard Monrow , born June 3, 1906, and Irene L., born Sept 11, 1907

Information furnished 1913

Hon. William T. McCulloch

Hon. William T. McCulloch, farmer, lives on Sec 14-147-60. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Nov 1, 1842, the son of James and Elizabeth McCulloch. He moved to Blanchard twp, Pease County, Canada, as a young child and lived there until he was 24 years old. He then began renting land in Pease County and stayed there until 1880. In that year he settled on land northwest of Sarnia in Pease County where he lived 2 years. In 1882 he moved to the claim he had filed on in 147-60. He now owns 1700 acres there.

Mr. McCulloch was married, at 24 years, to Miss Sarah A. Sansburn, a native of Canada, who was born in 1849. She was a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Sansburn. Her father was a farmer.

Mr. + Mrs. McCulloch are parents of 6 children: James A., Elizabeth J. (now Mrs. George Pratt) William A., Graham, Maggie, and Norman.

Mr. McCulloch was a state representative from 1891-5, during which time a special session was called to make an appropriation for the World's Columbian Exposition.

Bibliog. Condensed from Compend. of Hist. + Biog, 1900, p 189.

Biography of W. T. McCulloch
--Wallace McCulloch

May 31, 1926

Mr. James McCulloch was the father of the pioneer. He married Miss Montgomery.

William Thomas McCulloch was born December 11, 1843 in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

Land was high priced and he was poor, so he came to North Dakota because it was booming. He came here in the year 1880. That winter he worked for R. C. Cooper, teaming between Sanborn and the Cooper Ranch, also doing carpenter work. In the spring he went into the cook shack and acted as cook. The second winter he carpentered in and around Sanborn and built school houses.

He bought a relinquishment about two miles west of Sanborn and lived on it for two years. A frame shanty was built on to another shanty which was on the place. The shanty was built of railroad ties. The barn was built out of an old discarded railroad bridge which had been across Lake Eckelson. After living there the two years, he took up a homestead at Lake Jessie about 1883. The lumber for the first house was hauled from Sanborn, also food provisions, etc. The closest neighbors were Ole Thorn, E. L. Watne and Tollef Tweed.

The first team was a team of oxen; then a team of balky horses. The oxen and horses were driven together until more horses were raised. The machinery consisted of an eight-foot spring-tooth harrow and a breaking plow. The first two or three years he did the seeding by hand. He made a box which held about one-half bushel and this was held by a strap over his head and shoulder. Next he got an eight-foot broadcast seeder. Later he and Mr. Thorn got a wagon seeder which did not prove a success.

The crops consisted of black oats, and hard wheat which yielded about thirty bushels per acre. The price received ranged from forty to seventy-five cents per bushel. The threshing was done with a twelve horse power machine. By putting on more horses the power was increased so generally eighteen horses were put on. The separator was an Aultman Talor, thirty-two inch cylinder and a thirty-six inch rear. Owing to the fact that machines were scarce and the crops heavy, the threshing often continued into the winter. One instance was the threshing for three or four days with half the bundle racks on sleighs. The threshers were often caught in storms and blizzards. The experiences were very uncomfortable. The fuel consisted of wood and most of the pioneers settled near the woods.

Mr. McCulloch married Miss Sarah Ann Sansborn at St. Marys, Perth County, Ontario, Canada.

The claim shanty was L shaped. One portion was 8x16 feet and the other 8x12 feet. This was built of common twelve inch rough lumber, boarded up and down. The boards shrank considerably, leaving large cracks. Mrs. W. T. McCulloch pasted rags over the cracks in order to keep out the snow and cold. James, being the oldest in the family, received the duty of building the fire in the mornings. He had to be

Biography of W. T. McCulloch
--Wallace McCulloch

careful in getting out of bed in stormy weather to avoid stepping into snow banks. In cold weather the boys wore their caps to keep their ears from freezing. They lived in this shanty from the spring of 1883 until the fall of 1893 after which the brick house was built.

Mrs. W. T. McCulloch died January 16, 1908. Mr. McCulloch married again. He died in 1924 and was buried at Cooperstown.

Those of the family living are:

Mr. James A. McCulloch, Jessie, North Dakota
Mrs. Elizabeth Pratt, Cooperstown, North Dakota
Mr. W. A. McCulloch, Cooperstown, North Dakota
Mr. Graham McCulloch, Jessie, North Dakota
Mrs. J. B. Bailey, Bengough, Sask. Canada.
Mr. Norman McCulloch--Deceased

Horv. Wesley A - born Paynesville Minnesota - May 8-1872 living
 " Elizabeth M. " Fergus Ont Canada Dec. 15-1873 died South Pasadena Cal
 " their children
 Marshall Brown " New Paynesville Min Jan 8-1900. living Temple City Calif
 " Ernest August " Aneta No. Dak. Dec 14-1909 " So. Pasadena Calif
 " Ruth V. (Mrs Green Coburn) New Paynesville Min April 6-1915 " "
 Hugh Campbell The Daniel, Christina Moffat married at Copenhagen
 No. Dak July 23-1900
 Hugh was born in Bloomingdale - Mar. 4-1870 - Died Melba N.H. Alaska Decade
 Feb 15-1938
 Christine born Fergus Ont Decade April 30-1877 died Medicine Hat Alberta
 Decade March 8-1941
 John & Moffat, William Mitchell - married - Dec.
 John & born in Fergus Ont Canada Dec. 9, 1875, died at Bremerton Washington
 John & - 1943 -
 their children
 Bruce Wellington born at Copenhagen - Dec 1900
 Althea -
 Eugene -
 living Medford Oregon
 died Melba N.H. Calif - 1942
 young Decade marriage

Original copy Filed under Chesley A. Hoar

Charles C. McDonald--Apr. 4, 1890

Charles C. McDonald was born in Louisville, Louis Co. N.Y. May 4, '46 and came to Wisc. with his parents when a child, first settling in Waterville, Waukesha Co. After living there a few years they came to Columbia Co, first settling in Louisville and then afterwards in Portage City, where they resided until 1859, when they returned to Louisville where Mr. McDonald (having grown to manhood) became engaged in agricultural pursuits and caring for his mother (his father having died previously). About the year 1865 he removed to Marquette, Green Lake Co. In the fall of '73 he was married to Miss Maggie Fairchild, at that time he being engaged in the grocery business, also the mail route from Marquette to Ryson. They made their home at that place until about the year 1879 when they moved to Oshkosh, where he became engaged as "manager of construction" on the M.L.S and W. Ry. He visited in the winter with friends in Dakota, Minn and Iowa afterwards going to the exposition at New Orleans. Returning in the spring of 1885 to his home in Oshkosh he loaded his effects on the cars and removed to Cooperstown, N. Dak. settling on his claim and also worked as carpenter and mason trade and later became proprietor of the Palace Hotel where he died Mar. 12, 1890. His wife died Nov. 17, 1880 and was buried at Marquette. He leaves a daughter, Alva.

To Ellen Jark -
The first 2 of the McDougall family - Duncan & Agnes,
Mrs. George Miller (your uncle and aunt) arrived
in Hibbert from Lanark 100 years ago - 1849 -
The father, mother & younger members of the family,
among them your mother and my grand mother,
did not come to Hibbert until the fall of 1854.
Belle Campbell Secy, Box 452, Seaforth, Ont,

Biography of Victor Magnuson
--Hazel Magnuson

The names of the parents of the pioneer are Magnus Eliason and Bengta Bjornson. Name of pioneer is Victor Magnuson. He was born in Sweden, August 20, 1882, and left his old home to see the country and make a better home. He came to North Dakota because it was better land to raise crops on and more machinery.

It took three and a half weeks on the trip from his old home to N. Dak., and he came to N. Dak. the 6 of June, 1902. At first when he came here it looked funny towards what it looked where he came from. He took land in 1904 in township 148, range 61. The first house built was a frame house.

Nothing of any special interest happened during his trips to town. The near neighbors were Oliver Johnson, Ben Conant.

The early farm machinery was the drill, binder, disc, harrow, plow, and he had two teams. The early crops raised were wheat, flax, oats. The fuel of early days was coal and wood and was gotten in town.

He was married to Annie Tufte on April 12, 1907, at Cooperstown.

The present home is one farm 5 miles from Mose.

The descendants of the pioneer are Mabel Magnuson, Ida Magnuson, Florence Magnuson, Hazel Magnuson, all living at home.

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY
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PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Victor Magnuson by Hazel Magnuson

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- ✓ Nothing of any special interest happened during his trips to town.
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- ✓ The early farm machinery was the drill, binder, disc, harrow, plow, and he had two teams.
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--Hazel Magnuson

William Margoach

William Margoach was born in Morayshire, Scotland, November 11, 1854. He came alone from Scotland to Fargo, North Dakota around the first of April, 1882 where he did carpenter work for a year. He then went to Casselton and worked as a carpenter for three years when he took a homestead in Emmons county, North Dakota. He built his shanty in 1885, 12' by 16' and broke about twenty acres. His first crop in 1886 of twenty acres yielded seven bushels to the acre. Each year Mr. Margoach kept increasing his farming. The first years he hauled his wheat to Bismarck, forty miles distant and later hauled it to Steele Kidder county, North Dakota hauling coal back to the farm.

There was a big crop in 1891. The grain was hauled to Steele until about the first part of November for fifty-five cents a bushel. There were about twenty two-horse teams in making these trips. At one time around Thanksgiving while six of the teams were on their way back from Steele, the men were caught in a blizzard. They came to a small farmhouse where they stayed over night, twelve sleeping in one room. The twelve horses were put in a very small barn. They were forced to stay here from ten in the morning until sundown the next day. The morning after the blizzard had calmed down, the men started out with their loads of coal, six miles to their home. They had gone just a little way when one of the men's loads tipped in the snow. In three hours they arrived at their homes.

In the same blizzard a neighbor of Mr. Margoach, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cole had gone after a load of potatoes the day before the storm. They each had a team, both sleds loaded with potatoes. On their way home a blizzard came up and they became lost. They drove in ravines and over ridges. In a short time one sled got stuck in among the ravine. Then Mr. Cole came with his load and got stuck in a high drift of snow.

They stayed by their sled that night and most of the next day. They had let their horses loose and never thought to get on them where they would be taken home. The weather cleared the next morning and Mr. and Mrs. Cole found their way home. Mrs. Cole had frozen her toes which made it necessary for them to be amputated. Mr. Cole had also frozen his feet and suffered from the cold.

Mr. Margoeh was elected School Treasurer of Logan county in 1886 and held that position until 1896. He was elected County Commissioner of Emmons county in 1898 until 1899. Mr. Margoeh was Township Clerk of Bartley township, Griggs county from 1898 until 1901.

Mr. Margoeh stayed in Emmons county for eleven years when he came to Griggs county, Bartley township. He had bought a quarter in section 15 in 1883 for \$5 an acre. This he broke up and started farming in a new territory. Things went pretty good when Mr. Margoeh first moved to Griggs county. There had been a good crop in 1893.

In 1902 Mr. Margoeh traded his quarter for a quarter in section 22, Bartley township. He was married in 1907 to Christine Berge in Cooperstown by Judge Carlton. There were no children from this marriage. Mrs. Margoeh died in 1910. Mr. Margoeh now lives with Minar Jenson in Bartley township.

William Margarth

William Margarth, carpenter and builder, was born in Scotland in 1854 where he was educated and served a thorough apprenticeship to the trade of carpenter and joiner. He came to America in 1881, and settled first in Fargo, Dak. After working at his trade in that place two years, he came to Casselton and worked on the Grooner block and the new addition Casselton Bank building, two of the finest structures in Cooperstown. Mr. Margarth has one brother, also a carpenter, born in Scotland in 1841, who came to Toronto Canada in 1873, and in 1880 to Fargo Dak. where he now lives. The brothers are first-class mechanics, as the buildings erected by them abundantly attest. They own Sec 15-144-60, a fine section of land in Griggs County.

Bibliog: Atlas of Dakota, p 248

Lewis J. Mark

Lewis J. Mark, farmer, Sec. 8 ¹⁴⁸⁻⁵⁴ ~~54~~
P. O. Newburgh, was born in Norway, in the year 1849, and came to America with his parents, J. S. and Betsy Mark, who settled in Rock County, Wis., thirty-three years ago. They afterwards removed to Iowa, and were pioneers in Worth County where they are now prosperous and well-to-do farmers. Mrs. Lewis Mark was one of the earliest settlers on the upper Goose, coming into the valley at the same time with Mr. Bergh. He has now more than a half section of valuable land, some of it well timbered, nearly all of it ~~timbered~~ ^{improved} with excellent buildings, good teams, etc. Mr. Mark was married in 1871, to Miss Grew Larson, daughter of Lars Thompson, a resident of Worth County, Iowa. She was born in Norway, in 1844, and came to America at the age of eighteen. They have two children — Beata and John. Mrs. Mark's father is deceased, her mother is now an inmate of Mr. Mark's family.

Bibliog: Atlas of Dakota, 1884, page 242

Matteo A. Abbott and Minna M. Moffet married at Coppeleton
June 26-1902
Matteo born at Johnson Indiana June 18-1875 Died Dec Gabriel Calif
Nov. 26-1946
Minna - born July 16-1878 Teague Ont. Canada - Died Dec Gabriel Calif
Feb. 28-1947
their children
Doris Mae - born July 23-1903 Coppeleton. Died Los Angeles Cal. May 12-1913
Nicholas (The George Steamer) born Sept. 8-1905 Santa Fe. No. Dak. - living Sept Oregon
Milled (The George Steamer) born Dec 23-1900 at

Thos. A. Marguardt - Gattie Moffett married June 23-1900 at
Coppeleton Germany Dec. 9-1880 - living Eagle Lake California
Thos. - born - German No. Dak. July 28-1883 - living Eagle Lake "
Gattie "
their children
Margaret - born Dec. 23-1900 Coppeleton. Died Dec 1-1929 Fundeborn Minn
(The Millard Davis)
Robert - born July 2-1904 Coppeleton - living Eagle Lake Calif.
Doris M. Marguardt married June 6-1905 Coppeleton No. Dak.
Feb. 7. born - Jessie M. Marguardt married June 24-1869 - Died St. Paul Minn. May 25-1946
two - both Muscatine Iowa. No. Dak. Aug. 2-1884 - living Gabriel Calif -
Jessie M. Marguardt married No. Dak. July 20-1906 Died Aug. 20 of 1906 Santa Fe. N.M.
Doris May - born Sept. 10-1908 Milled No. Dak. living Glendale Calif.
Charles - born Sept. 10-1908 Milled No. Dak. living Glendale Calif.

Biography of Edward Michaelis
--Walter Michaelis

The pioneer whose biography I have chosen to write is Mr. Edward Michaelis.

Mr. Edward Michaelis was born September twelfth 1842, at Geilenfelde by Frieleberg in der Neumark Regirungs bezirk Frankfurt in Germany. Due to the hard times he had in Germany he came to the new world to seek a better living in 1862.

He had some relatives at Valley City and in corresponding about Dakota territory decided to come to the rolling prairies to make his new home. When Mr. Michaelis came the twenty second day of March to Valley City, which had been called Northington, there was so much snow around the buildings that they had to sit down on the large snowbanks and slide in order to get down to the door. Later on it began to thaw and lots of water accumulated and finally the ice blocked up in the Sheyenne River and it caused a flood, so that the whole town was under water. He bought an ox team and paid three hundred and twenty five dollars for four and one hundred and twenty eight dollars for two cows. Mr. Michaelis then left Valley City for Griggs County but when they came to Denning crossing on Bald Hill Creek they could not cross, the current being so strong and the creek so deep and wide, so they unloaded what lumber they had and went to Valley City. They stayed for five days and tried again but could not get through then either. The third time they went by Dazey towards what is Hannaford now and the Northern Pacific section house by Jack Mills and reached the pioneers homestead with very little trouble in a short time. Mr. Michaelis hired a surveyor to measure his land which was Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 8, township 145, and range 59. The next thing was to put up a house and in order to do that he had to get lumber. He started in the morning with four oxen to Valley City to get some lumber for a claim shanty fourteen by sixteen. He wanted to move his family up to the homestead, before the cold weather set in. Before he could get ready it became cloudy and black looking the northwest and some one said they might have a blizzard. "Oh, it can't be," he said, for it was by this time the nineteenth of May. He drove down to the valley to get some seed potatoes at three dollars and fifty cents a bushel. When he started back from town the storm was so fierce that he could not go along side of his oxen for large gravel stones flew in his face. He had to hide himself behind the wagon and let the oxen go. When he came to the place where he stopped it was so cold and such a blizzard as he had never seen in all his life.

Soon he began to make preparations for planting. He struck out a piece of land three fourths miles long to break for 1883 crop. He had four good oxen and a good sixteen inch plow. He made eight rounds before breakfast, let the oxen feed, then eight rounds before dinner and eight rounds after dinner, that made thirty six miles a day. After breaking twenty acres, he had to build a barn. Sod was the material used at that time for barns. He built a barn 20x30 feet. Sod was used as brick and sand was the mortor. Crutches brought from the Sheyenne River were put in the center to hold up the roof which was made by putting

Biography of Edward Michaelis
--Walter Michaelis

poles across and brush on top of the poles. The shanty was sod up to the window. It looked like a fortress. When there was a real hard blizzard sometimes the windows would block up with snow and they could not tell whether it was day or night until they shoveled their way out doors. They kept a shovel in the house every night in case they should drift in they could work their way out. The doors had to swing to the inside always. One morning the pioneer opened the door and it was all drifted in. He had to shovel the snow all into the shanty till he got a hole out and then shovel it all out again in order to get out. The barns most generally had a hole on the top for them to crawl in for it often times was impossible to get by the door. Feed was kept inside the barn. Binder twine was stretched between house and barn to guide them to and fro in storms. Winter set in early in October, 1882. Provisions were laid for the winter from Valley City. The winter was extremely severe. The wind blew hard every day most generally three days from northwest and for a change from the southeast for three days. It was so cold sometimes sixty degrees below zero. Every nail inside the shanty had a head of ice formed the size of a silver dollar much thicker in the center than the outer edge. During the night when the fire was out everything froze hard on the wall and ceiling when the fire was started in the morning it began to thaw and made the floor wet, dripping from the ceiling.

Watering the cattle during the winter was rather a hard task the water had to be pulled up out of the well in buckets. Standing at the well was not so easy on account of the cold and storm in the early part of the winter but he had to change his method when the stock went to drink they froze their noses white and ran shaking to the barn from the cold.

The long winter kept all folks at home. Not being prepared for such a long hard winter the pioneer family ran out of flour and food. By this time Cooperstown had been built up. Mr. Michaelis wanted to go to town every day but it was so stormy all the while that it was impossible for him to get there.

The fuel they used was wood. When they were short of wood they used five foot long slough hay. Mr. Michaelis took bundles into the shack at night, went to work and twisted it by hand into a solid chunk and piled these up and put them in the stove as they were needed. Others took straw and screening. When they came to town their clothing had a peculiar odor from screening. When they had a day of forty below zero they would say it was a fine day. Often times the chimneys would freeze up and the lignite soot would run down from the chimney onto the roof and into their windows when it thawed a little during some days.

The pioneer tells of Mr. R. C. Cooper's wheat caravans in the fall of 1882. Early in the morning one could hear the rumbling of wagon wheels and mule teams. There would be a string of loads as far as he could see ahead of wheat headed for Sanborn. Mr. Cooper being the most prominent man in the vicinity was the man for whom Cooperstown was named.

Biography of Edward Michaelis
--Walter Michaelis

The first crop raised in 1883 was a poor one. It did not rain till the third day of July and the wheat looked very poor.

Harvest was very late in September. The pioneer cut his wheat in October and threshed in November. Wheat was forty cents a bushel, There were not very many threshing machines. The grain was run into one half bushel and put in sacks then loaded on the wagons. It took three men to do that. There were no grain tanks at that time.

That summer the railroad track was built as far as Cooperstown. Then their mail was brought up by train.

When Mr. Michaelis came to Dakota there was an abundance of buffalo bones laying on the prairie. People with double wagon box picked the bones, then brought them to Cooperstown and sold them at ten dollars a ton. The buffalo paths were also numerous.

There was lots of good game. Large white cranes, a beautiful bird, and also the gray crane, some swans, and wild geese by the thousand, of various colors, gray, white, and black. In spring when they came from the south they would light on the fields and cover at times a whole quarter section. The geese were hard on the people's crops. They picked up the seed and ate the young plant also. Prairie chickens were plentiful. There were also any number of song birds, a good many of which have become extinct. One day about one o'clock Mr. Michaelis saw three nice deer coming up the road although deer were scarce even in the early eighties. There lots of wolves and foxes.

The court house for Griggs County was built in the summer of 1884. The material see brought up by teams, a good part of it in the winter by sleigh in 1886-1887.

Mr. Michaelis was married at Egensville, Ontario, Canada in 1868 to Miss Bertha Grave. The pioneer is still living and has six children who are all married. They are Herman J. Michaelis, Hannaford, N. Dak., Mrs. Luther Rowly, Davidson, Saskatchewan, Canada, Mrs. William Trost, Jessie, N. Dak., Mrs. George Stevens, Cooperstown, N. Dak., Ernest Michaelis, Hannaford, N. Dak. and Paul Michaelis, Hannaford, nN. Dak. The deceased are the pioneer's wife, Mrs. Edward Michaelis and two daughters, Miss Mathilda Michaelis, and Mrs. Martha Husel.

Mr. Edward Michaelis is at present eighty five years of age and still active, drives his car and enjoys life. He has a beautiful home on Lenham Avenue and Twelfth Street, Cooperstown, N. Dak.

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Edward Michaelis

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He had some relatives at Valley City and in corresponding about Dakota territory decided to come to the rolling prairies to make his new home. When Mr. Michaelis came the twenty second day of March to Valley City, which had been called Northington, there was so much snow around the buildings that they had to sit down on the large snowbanks and slide in order to get down to the door. Later on it began to thaw and lots of water accumulated and finally the ice blocked up in the Sheyenne River and it caused a flood, so that the whole town was under water. He bought an ox team and paid three hundred and twenty five dollars for four and one hundred and twenty dollars for two cows. Mr. Michaelis then left Valley City for Griggs County but when they came to Denning crossing on Bald Hill Creek they could not cross, the current being so strong and the creek so deep and wide, so they unloaded what lumber they had and went to Valley City. They stayed for five days and tried again but could not get through then either. The third time they went by Dazey towards what is Hannaford now and the Northern Pacific section house by Jack Mills and reached the pioneers homestead with very little trouble in a short time. Mr. Michaelis hired a surveyor to measure his land which was Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 8, township 145, and range 59. The next thing was to put up a house and in order to do that he had to get lumber. He started in the morning with four oxen to Valley City to get some lumber for a claim shanty fourteen by sixteen. He wanted to move his family up to the homestead before the cold weather set in. Before he could get ready it became cloudy and black looking in the northwest and some one said they might have a blizzard. "Oh, it can't be," he said, for it was by this time the nineteenth of May. He drove down to the valley to get some seed potatoes at three dollars and fifty cents a bushel. When he started back from town the storm was so fierce that he could not go along side of his oxen for large gravel stones flew in his face. He had to hide himself behind the wagon and let the oxen go. When he came to the place where he stopped it was so cold and such a blizzard as he had never seen in all his life.

Soon he began to make preparations for planting. He struck out a piece of land three fourths miles long to break for 1883 crop. He had four good oxen and a good sixteen inch plow. He made eight rounds before breakfast, let the oxen feed, then eight rounds before dinner and eight rounds after dinner, that made thirty six miles a day. After breaking twenty acres, he had to build a barn. Sod was the material used at that time for barns. He built a barn 20x30 feet. Sod was used as brick and sand was the mortar. Crutches brought from the Sheyenne River were put in the center to hold up the roof which was made by putting poles across and brush on top of the poles. The shanty was sod up to the window. It looked like a fortress. When there was a real hard blizzard sometimes the windows would block up with snow and they could not tell whether it was day or night until

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they shoveled their way out doors. They kept a shovel in the house every night in case they should drift in they could work their way out. The doors had to swing to the inside always. One morning the pioneer opened the door and it was all drifted in. He had to shovel the snow all into the shanty till he got a hole out and then shovel it all out again in order to get out. The barns most generally had a hole on the top for them to crawl in for it often times was impossible to get by the door. Feed was kept inside the barn. Binder twine was stretched between house and barn to guide them to and fro in storms. Winter set in early in October 1882. Provisions were laid for the winter from Valley City. The winter was extremely severe. The wind blew hard every day most generally three days from northwest and for a change from the southeast for three days. It was so cold sometimes sixty degrees below zero. Every nail inside the shanty had a head of ice formed the size of a silver dollar much thicker in the center than the outer edge. During the night when the fire was out everything froze hard on the wall and ceiling when the fire was started in the morning it began to thaw and made the floor wet dripping from the ceiling.

Watering the cattle during winter was rather a hard task, the water had to be pulled up out of the well in buckets. Standing at the well was not so easy on account of the cold and storm in the early part of the winter but he had to change his method when the stock went to drink they froze their noses white and ran shaking to the barn from the cold.

The long winter kept all folks at home. Not being prepared for such a long hard winter the pioneer family ran out of flour and food. By this time Cooperstown had been built up. Mr. Michaelis wanted to go to town every day but it was so storm all the while that it was impossible for him to get there.

The fuel they used was wood. When they were short of wood they used five foot long slough hay. Mr. Michaelis took bundles into the shack at night, went to work and twisted it by hand into a solid chunk and piled these up and put them in the stove as they were needed. Others took straw and screening. When they had a day of forty below zero they would say it was a fine day. Often times the chimneys would freeze up and the lignite soot would run down from the chimney on to the roof and into their windows when it thawed a little during some days.

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buffalo bones laying on the prairie. People with double wagon boxes picked the bones, then brought them to Cooperstown and sold them at ten dollars a ton. The buffalo paths were also numerous.

There was lots of good game. Large white cranes, a beautiful bird and also the gray crane, some swans, and wild geese by the thousand, of various colors, gray, white and black. In spring when they came from the south they would light on the fields and cover at times a whole quarter section. The geese were hard on the people's crops. They picked up the seed and ate the young plant also. Prairie chickens were plentiful. There were also any number of song birds, a good many of which have become extinct. One day about one o'clock Mr. Michaelis saw three nice deer coming up the road although deer were scarce even in the early eighties. There were lots of wolves and foxes.

The court house for Griggs County was built in the summer of 1884. The material was brought up by teams, a good part of it in the winter by sleigh in 1886-1887.

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Mr. Edward Michaelis is at present eighty five years of age and still active, drives his car and enjoys life. He has a beautiful home on Lenham Avenue and Twelfth Street, Cooperstown, N. Dak.

-----Walter Michaelis

The Pioneers: One Man's Story Of The Early Days

by Edward Michaelis

In the summer of 1883 the railroad track got ready as far as Cooperstown. Then we could get our mail brought up to Cooperstown by train. I am sorry but I can't say who was the first post master in Cooperstown.

There was a mail route coming from Sanborn to Mount Clair, located on Sec. 20-145-59, at Duncan Sinclair's place and Mr. Duncan Sinclair was post master. Mr. Arthur Sinclair was mail carrier from Mount Clair to New Rockford, going by my place on sec. 8-145-59. I mind that sometimes there was such a blizzard that I thought it was impossible to find the road, but he would come out of the snow mist. I could see him for a rod or two, then he was gone in the mist again. I wondered many a time how he could find the road. He had a brown pony about 800 pounds, no bridle on at all, so the pony took all the responsibility on himself and carried the mail for Uncle Sam, with Archie in co-operation. Before that line had been established we got our mail brought

up from Sanborn by Mr. R. C. Cooper. The ware house was the temporary post office and Al Shue or Billy Lenham were postmasters.

When I first came to Dakota there were plenty of buffalo bones lying on the prairies. People went out with double box wagon, picked them up, brought them to Cooperstown and sold them at \$10 a ton. There were plenty of buffalo paths where they had travelled. I found some bones that had been sawed—for steak probably by the hunters.

There was lots of good game. I could see these great big white cranes—a beautiful bird—and also the gray crane. There were some swans, too, and wild geese by the ten thousands—various colors, gray, white, black. In spring when they came from the south they were moving for more than a whole month, and when they sat down it covered at times a whole quarter section. I once opened my barn, I thought some of them would go in, but they did not. They were hard on people's crop, by picking up the seed and eating

the young plant also. Prairie chickens were plentiful. There were some birds at that time you don't see any more.

One day at about 1 o'clock I saw three nice deer coming up to my place, close by. Ed Hanson fired a shot at them, but did not hit them.

My daughter Mathilda found a wild goose nest with five eggs, brought them home and set a hen and hatched them out. They grew up and we had lots of amusement with them.

There were lots of wolves and foxes and some lynx too.

Now it is no more than right to show what kind of people we had in this land of Dakota Territory. As soon as South and North were divided and became a state, we went to work and made N. Dakota prohibition, and it has stood for that up to this day. Before it was a state at least three or four saloons were in Cooperstown, and drug stores all sold intoxicating liquor, but they had to get out after the election. That has been a blessing to the state.

In 1896-97 I believe we had the most snow and storms. On the

28th day of October it began to rain and on the 29th when we came out in the morning it was a regular blizzard and it kept on until the snow was that deep that trains could not run. They had to shovel all along the track till they had a big snow ditch, and the next blizzard made it worse then it was before. The worst of it was there was no coal at home. So I went out with two teams and had about 500 pounds of coal to the load and kept on that way until we had a road by driving on it every day. But before I could do that we unhitched the team and drove them through without the sleigh.

I went that year to Canada. I had a man hired—Andrew Hanson. He said to me, "You can go and have your visit and don't worry. I will take good care of everything." And he did, too.

And when we came back in the spring of 1897 and came as far as Fargo, people said we could not get through to Cooperstown, and I noticed when in the coach that there was so much snow on the track that the car was running as much on the

hard snow as on the rails. The conductor asked us if we did not know that there was so much snow and said, "You can't get through to Cooperstown." And so it was. We had to lay over at Sanborn for a whole week. They tried every day with the snow plow—run it as far as they could and then shovel it out, until finally the rotary machine got orders to clean up the road to Cooperstown. And that did not go so easy. When the rotary was as far as a little beyond Dazey they got orders to come back. They were needed on the main line. But they were beyond so far that they could not come back before they came to Cooperstown to use the turn table. Now that was good for us for there were quite a bunch gathered at Sanborn. We had no money. The R. R. Co. started to take care of us, but there were some fellows who got themselves some whiskey and got drunk, and so we were all turned out. They said that if you have money for whiskey you can pay your own bill too. So there we were. I happened to

meet Mr. Cox. He knew me and I asked him if he could let me have some money. "Yes, Ed," he said, "all you want." So I got all I needed.

Then we came to Cooperstown, and also to the farm. The buildings were so drifted in, the snow reached as high as to touch the shingles on the roof. I thought that we would have a real flood when the snow melted in the spring. But no, the ground was not frozen and the water went in as fast as it thawed. The crop was not much good that year because no frost in the ground. The water trickled down before it was ripe, and that is what it always does when we have no frost in the ground. Now I think I will quit. This goes as far as to the summer of 1897.

The climate had changed wonderfully from 1882 to 1927, and the people need four times as much money as we did.

Now good bye until later.

Walter my boy, take good care of this. I want it back if you get through with it.

Your Gramps

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Edward Michaelis by Walter Michaels

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He had some relatives at Valley City and in corresponding about Dakota territory decided to come to the rolling prairies to make his new home. When Mr. Michaelis came the twenty second day of March to Valley City, which had been called Northington, there was so much snow around the buildings that they had to sit down on the large snowbanks and slide in order to get down to the door. Later on it began to thaw and lots of water accumulated and finally the ice blocked up in the Cheyenne River and it caused a flood, so that the whole town was under water. He bought an ox team and paid three hundred and twenty five dollars for four and one hundred and twenty eight dollars for two cows. Mr. Michaelis then left Valley City for Griggs County but when they came to Denning crossing on Bald Hill Creek they could not cross, the current being so strong and the creek so deep and wide, so they unloaded what lumber they had and went to Valley City. They stayed for five days and tried again but could not get through then either. The third time they went by Dazey towards what is Hannaford now and the Northern Pacific section house by Jack Mille and reached the pioneers homestead with very little trouble in a short time. Mr. Michaelis hired a surveyor to measure his land which was Southeast 1/4 of section 8, township 145, and range 59. The next thing was to put up a house and in order to do that he had to get lumber. He started in the morning with four oxen to Valley City to get some lumber for a claim shanty fourteen by sixteen. He wanted to move his family up to the homestead before the cold weather set in. Before he could get ready it became cloudy and black looking the northwest and some one said they might have a blizzard. "Oh it can't be," he said, for it was by this time the nineteenth of May. He drove down to the valley to get some seed potatoes at three dollars and fifty cents a bushel. When he started back from town the storm was so fierce that he could not go along side of his oxen for large gravel stones flew in his face. He had to hide himself behind the wagon and let the oxen go. When he came to the place where he stopped it was so cold and such a blizzard as he had never seen in all his life.

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Edward Michaelis (continued) #3

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--Walter Michaelis

John Graham Mills, pioneer of North Dakota, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, on May 23, 1854, about midway between Montreal and Quebec. He was the eldest of twelve children, of whom four were boys; John Robert, David, and Earnest, and eight were girls; Mae, Emma, Melissa, Jennie, Rachel, Geogina, Maude and Jessie. At present all are living except three sisters, Emma, Rachel and Maude.

John Mills stayed on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, where he had to help support the large family. In 1875, he took Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man," and left for Ontario. At the time he left home he was twenty-five dollars in debt.

He landed in the count of Perty, state of Ontario, among a group of good, substantial farmers, who were of English, German and Scotch descent. Mr. Mills states that these people were the best farmers he has ever had the pleasure of meeting. They were well posted in good stock raising as well as good agricultural men. It was while working here that he received his training in how to raise good stock.

He was here for about six or seven years and then started farther west.

Mr. Mills's father, William Mills, was born in the state of Ireland and came to America when eight years of age. His mother, Mabel Graham was of Scotch parentage.

His grandfather, Robert Mills, was an old British officer. He received a government grant of land for his services in the British war. Both grandfathers were pioneers in a wooded country.

In 1906, Mr. and Mrs. William Mills celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. All the children were home for the occasion and once more the family was gathered around the happy family circle, each one telling of his or her adventures in life while away from home; but nine months later, this family circle was broken when the mother passed away. Just thirteen years later, in 1919, the father passed away. Both were on the

old homestead at the time.

Thinking life would be easier on the prairie, he started for Dakota in 1830. But did not arrive here until March 26, 1831, as he spent the winter in Michigan. When Mr. Mills landed in Sanborn, N. Dak., the first person he met was Mr. Rollin C. Cooper, another of our old Pioneers, who has, in the years since then, proved to be a true friend indeed. Many are the kind deeds that have been rendered by Mr. Cooper. I am sure none will forget them.

Mr. Cooper spent all of his best days on the prairie lands of North Dakota and even now, when the birds return here in the spring, Mr. Cooper also returns to spend his summer vacation in Cooperstown, the town which was named after him. His winter months, are, however, spent in the sunny south in the state of Florida.

John Mills, before returning to Canada, drew up a contract, bought the lumber and paid the carpenters for having a house built that fall so that when he returned with his bride in the following year, a new house would be awaiting them. But when he landed here in the spring of 1832, no house was to be seen. The carpenters thought that as long as he was not returning for a year they would have plenty of time, but they had taken too much for granted.

The first thing Mr. Mills did was call in the neighbors to help him build his house, at which they agreed to do if Mr. Mills would board the men until the house was built. Of course that would be cheap carpenters, so within a week the new house was completed.

John Mills was married March 15, 1832, to Mary C. Fletcher. Miss Fletcher lived in St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada, and was one of three children. She had one brother, William older, and one brother, George, younger.

At the age of thirteen her mother died and the responsibility of taking care of her younger brother, fell on her.

She was of English parentage and her parents were pioneers of the Province of Ontario.

Many a time the deer and the antelope would come up to the wooden fence and stand and watch the children at play in the yard.

In the spring of 1882, Mr. Mills, and Duncan Sinclair, with their farm equipment started for the prairie lands of N. Dak. Three weeks later, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Duncan Sinclair came. Mr. Mills and Mr. Sinclair came with an excursion of about thirty immigrants. They traveled on the Grand Trunk, Michigan Center, Chicago Northwester and Northern Pacific railroads. They were five and a half days on the road. Everything went fine until the Northern Pacific train, pulled in too somewhere near the Southern part of Minnesota. But nevertheless, the excursion reached Sanborn in good condition.

When Mr. Mills and Mr. Sinclair came through, from Sanborn to Hannaford, they had to break the ice before they could cross the Bald Hill creek and get up to their farms.

When Mrs. Sinclair and Mrs. Mills reached Sanborn, they had to stop at the W. T. McCulloch home in Sanborn, as they had no home to go to as yet. Mr. Mills telegraphed the two women and told them not to come yet at neither home was finished, but as the depot agent forgot to take the address of Mrs. Mills, he did not know where to send it to and so he never sent the telegram at all. So the women came. Only one week was spent in Sanborn and then they came North to Hannaford, to occupy their own new home.

The home in which Mrs. Mills went to was considered an "up-to-date" home as it was the first two-story house in that community. If we should see such a house today we would hardly think it fit for a granary to say nothing of a house. The kitchen floor was one made by nature and most everywhere you looked, the sunlight would be shining through small cracks in the wall. In 1894, an addition of four rooms were built on and then it looked more like a house of a civilized ~~happy~~ man.

In June 26, 1883, a son, Milton Ethelbert, was born. His boyhood days were spent at home until the age of twenty-three, when he left home and started a farm of his own just one-half mile west of the old homestead. When he moved to New York state in 1919, the place was rented to Robert Pittenger, who now resides on the place.

On January 1, 1914, he was married to Maude Parrish of Illinois. No children have been born to them, but they have adopted two boys.

September 18, 1886, a daughter, Mabel Elizabeth was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Mills. Her younger life was spent at home. At the age of fifteen she left for Minneapolis, where she attended high school. After finishing her four years of high school she spent one year at the Music Conservatory at Fargo. She then taught Music and drawing for one year at Cavalier and the following year she taught high school at Hannaford, for a period of three months. The next year, 1912, she was married to Mr. Eli W. Parker, of Lake Mills, Iowa. One child, Jeane Winifred, was born to them.

April 22, 1888, a third child, George William was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Mills. All his life has been spent on the old homestead, now located three and one half miles north of Hannaford. On March 6, 1912, he was united in marriage to Veda B. Shepherd of Cooperstown, North Dakota.

To them four children have been born: Lucille Mae, Florence Eleanor, Jeannete Evelyn and John Rodney.

March 30, 1912, Mr. and Mrs. John Mills moved to town and have since made their home there.

When John Mills came to occupy his grant of land, it was not surveyed, so he had to "squat" on it. All he had received was a "Squatters Right." He had to do his own surveying as it was only surveyed in townships and not in sections.

When the land was surveyed for sections, the section line was put through the house. It went through a window and then out through a door, but when the surveyors noticed this they went back and surveyed the line over again and this time the line was put about two rods from the back door

step.

After July 12, 1882, the homestead was located in Griggs County, Bald Hill, Township 145, Section 22 and 28, range 59.

The farmers who wanted to file on land in North Dakota had to go to Fargo to receive their rights. In order to be the first one to get his papers, John Mills slept in the window of the land office building in Fargo all night. He wanted to be the first one in Bald Hill to receive his claim.

The following years, he put out two tree claims, each consisting of ten acres, but both years it was a complete failure.

In the year of 1885 there were no crops, as a settler on the other side of the James River wanted to see what a prairie fire was like, so he started a stubble burning just at the other side of the river bank, but as everything was "bone dry" that year, and the river was very low, the sparks soon leaped over the small stream. As a result, the fire kept spreading and finally resulted in a real prairie fire, which took all crops and everything in its path.

In 1886, Mr. Mills's crop consisted of eight shocks of wheat, a wheelbarrow of potatoes and a few oats, which were threshed by Soren Berg. He threshed all forenoon of one day and did not get enough oats to feed the mules which were hauling all the water for the machine. The next year the same land produced wheat which averaged twenty-four bushels to the acre.

The crop of 1888 was froze out, but as there was plenty of feed so that nothing suffered from it.

During the years which followed, some were very prosperous years and some were very hard years, but still the family was happy as there was no sickness or hungry people.

From the year John Mills landed in North Dakota, he practised diversified farming. This was one of the hobbies of the early farmers, but few were very successful. Mr. Mills bought the first spreader that

was shipped into Griggs County. The first cornbinder was brought home but no one knew how to put it together. Finally Ram Hazzar, who had only driven a cornbinder for half a day, started putting it together. Gradually they found a place for every piece and the cornbinder was ready for use.

The first binder he bought was a Plano, which cost originally three-hundred dollars, but after making a few offers, the price was cut to two-hundred and sixty dollars. This proved to be a good binder though, as it was used for fourteen years. He also bought a mowing machine and a rake, which amounted to one-hundred dollars.

John Mills helped haul the lumber which was used to build the first house of Cooperstown. At present the house is located near the courthouse. The lumber had to be hauled from Sanborn, which was a distance of twenty-eight miles from the homestead, and about thirty-eight from the present site of Cooperstown.

Anyone coming to North Dakota had a hard time at first as the methods and customs of farming were entirely different from those of the other countries. As Mr. Mills states, "Good common sense went a longer ways than some of the proved theories."

In 1880, was the last buffalo hunt. When the pioneers of '81 came here, there were no buffalos, just a lot of bones. However, there were plenty of deer and antelope roaming through the country. There were also plenty of geese, One day the geese were so thick that they could hardly plow through them. Another day Mr. Mills shot and wounded five with the one shot.

The first post-office of that neighborhood was located at Duncan Sinclairs. Four miles north and one mile west of Hannaford. At present Anton Painter lives on the place. This post-office was called Mount Claire. A few years later it was moved to the Northern Pacific section house.

The first election was held in 1882. The principal question was;

Should they move the County Seat to Cooperstown or leave it at Hope. There was a big pull between the two places but Cooperstown finally won out and the County Seat was moved to Cooperstown. It was not moved until 1884, tho, as the Courthouse was not finished until then.

The first officers of this election were: Sam Sansborn, John Houghton and John Mills. These three men worked till five O'clock in the morning making out the returns for the election.

The first records of 1883 for Griggs County were kept in one of R. C. Cooper's grainarys. They were kept here for only one year though as the courthouse was built the following year.

During this one year the records were discovered to be missing twice. The first time they were found at Cooperstown. The officers here had stolen them from Hope, as they wanted to look over the records. Later they were again misses from the grainary and it was found that the people of Hope had stolen them from the granary for the same reason. However, when the officials of Hope returned them to the granary, they were in perfect condition.

Mrs. Mills tells of one incident where a man came riding past her house shouting that the Indians were coming. Not knowing what to do or where to hide, she decided that the best thing to do would be to just stand in the door-way and watch for them. If she hid they would find her anyway. Late that afternoon, she saw a group of horsemen coming over the hill at the North. Yes, that must be them, but as they drew closer, she found it to be Mr. Cooper and his men. They were moving from Sanborn to Mr. Cooper's ranch up by Cooperstown.

In 1903, John Mills decided that he would like to raise cattle. He started with four head of pureBread Herefords. From the small beginning, the heard increased to a good size.

In 1910, he exhibited at the fair in Fargo. In 1912, he again exhibited all around the circuit and was then made one of the charter members of the State Fair Board, and was president of the Griggs

County Fair Association for nineteen years, missing only one Fair meeting in that time.

When Mr. Mills left the farm in 1912, his youngest son bought all of the stock. Since then he has taken charge of the stock raising. At present he owns about sixty head of Herefords.

When George Mills took over the stock, for a few years he exhibited at the fair, but as time went on, there was more work to do on the farm, and so the idea of going on with the exhibiting, was given up, and since then no exhibiting has been done.

At the Fourth Annual Portrait Gallery held in Fargo in 1925, Mr. Mills was one of the two men of North Dakota to have his picture hung in the Saddle and Siroloin Club Hall of fame. W. L. Richards of Dickinson, North Dakota, was the other person to be so honored.

Mr. Mills was elected to the Hall of Fame for his outstanding work in trying to better the agriculture in North Dakota.

During the year 1925, there were eight men who had^{had} their portraits placed in the Hall of Fame; namely, James H. Bosard, Grand Forks; John Christiansen, New Salem; James B. Power, Leonard; Oscar H. Will, Bismarck; Frank Sanford, Valley City; David Clark, Botteneau; and E. C. Butler of Cooperstown.

If both Mr. And Mrs. John Mills keep their health and remain well, they expect to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary next June. The Date falls on *March 15*, 1932, but as they expect all the children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and all relation to attend, they have set the date for sometime in June, so that all can be present.

EARLY DAYS IN GRIGGS COUNTY

by John Mills

In the early days ,the land was not surveyed in Griggs County so the settlers "squatted" on the land and received a "Squatters" Right". The settlers had to do their own surveying as the townships and sections were not platted as yet. The settlers who wanted to file on land in N. Dakota had to go to Fargo to receive their right.

In the year of 1883, there were no crops in Griggs County as a settler on the other side of James River wanted to see what a prairie fire was like, so he started a stubble burning just at the other side of the river bank and as everything was bone dry that year, and the river was very low, the sparks soon leaped over the small stream. As a result the fire kept spreading and finally resulted in a real prairie fire which took all crops and everything in its path.

In 1886, there were no crops. In that year the crop of John Mills living in Bald Hill Tp. consisted of eight shocks of wheat, a wheelbarrow of potatoes and a few oats.

The crops of 1888 froze out in Griggs County but as there was plenty of feed, nothing suffered.

In 1880 was the last buffalo hunt. When the pioneers of 1881 came to what is now Griggs County, there were no buffaloes, just a lot of buffalo bones. However, there were plenty of deer and antelope. There were also plenty of geese. One day the geese were so thick, that the settlers could hardly plow through them.

Bibliography:

Griggs County Sentinel-Courier
Jan. 21 and Jan. 28, 1932
From the life of John Mills, written by his granddaughter.